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Message Text

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44
ACTION H-03

INFO OCT-01 EUR-08 NEA-07 ISO-00 SS-07 NSC-06 AID-01 /033 W
---------- 019430
R 081450Z JAN 76
FM AMEMBASSY CAIRO
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9062
INFO AMEMBASSY ANKARA
AMEMBASSY ATHENS
AMEMBASSY BELGRADE
AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

C O N F I D E N T I A L CAIRO 0238

EO 11652: GDS
TAGS: OREP (MORGAN, THOMAS P.)
SUBJECT: CODEL MORGAN WRAP-UP

REF: A. CAIRO 0149 B. CAIRO 0183 C. CAIRO 0154

1. SUMMARY: CODEL MORGAN'S HIGHLY SUCCESSFUL VISIT TO EGYPT JANUARY 5-7 AFFORDED MEMBERS OPPORTUNITY TO GAUGE EXTENT OF CURRENT EGYPTIAN FRIENDSHIP FOR US, DIMENSIONS OF EGYPT'S ECONOMIC PROBLEMS, AND EGYPTIAN ATTITUDES CONCERNING FUTURE STEPS IN ME PEACE NEGOTIATIONS. VISIT WAS HIGHLIGHTED BY CORDIAL HOUR-LONG MEETING WITH PRES SADAT AT BARRAGES JANUARY 6 (REF A), CODEL ENGAGED IN FRANK AND FRIENDLY DISCUSSIONS WITH PEOPLES ASSEMBLY SPEAKER MAR'I WHICH FOCUSED ON GOE NEED FOR ECONOMIC ASSISTANCE AND ON PALESTINIAN PROBLEMS (REF B) AND WITH MEMBERS OF PEOPLES ASSEMBLY FOREIGN RELATIONS COMMITTEE, LED BY CHAIRMAN LUTFI GOMAA AND DEPUTY SPEAKER GAMAL OTEIFI, WHERE US ATTITUDE TOWARD PALESTINIANS WAS ALSO DISCUSSED.

2. AFTER ARRIVAL, CODEL MORGAN ATTENDED BRIEFING AT EMBASSY CONDUCTED BY CHARGE WITH EMBASSY STAFF. BRIEFING COVERED EGYPTIAN STANCE IN WAKE OF SINAI II ACCORD, PARLOUS CONDITION OF EGYPTIAN ECONOMY, AND EGYPTIAN MILITARY NEEDS IN AFTERMATH OF SOVIET DECISION TO CEASE MILITARY SHIPMENTS. THESE POINTS, AND PARTICULARLY EGYPTIAN DESIRE TO OBTAIN DEFENSIVE ARMS
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FROM US, RECURRED THROUGHOUT VISIT. SADAT AND MAR'I BOTH

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URGED US PROVISION OF DEFENSIVE ARMAMENTS, ALTHOUGH
CODEL MEMBERS ASSERTED THAT CONGRESSIONAL PASSAGE OF ANY ARMS-
FOR-EGYPT-BILL APPEARED VIRTUALLY IMPOSSIBLE. DURING BRIEFING,
CODEL MEMBERS ALSO EXPRESSED INTEREST IN EXTENT OF
DETERIORATION OF SOVIET-EGYPTIAN RELATIONS, WHETHER SADAT
COULD SURVIVE POLITICALLY WITHOUT CONTINUED PROGRESS TOWARD
ME SETTLEMENT, AND WHETHER OTHER ARAB STATES CONTRIBUTING
FAIR SHARE (GIVEN EGYPTIAN AID PACKAGE PENDING IN CONGRESS)
TOWARD SUPPORT OF EGYPTIAN ECONOMY.

3. FOLLOWING EMBASSY BRIEFING, CODEL ATTENDED RECEPTION HOSTED
BY MRS. EILTS (IN AMBASSADOR ABSENCE) AND CHARGE AND MRS.
MAESTRONE. ATTENDANCE BY GOE OFFICIALS, SENIOR ARAB LEAGUE
OFFICERS, DIPLOMATIC CORPS, LOCAL AND FOREIGN PRESS, AND BUSINESS
COMMUNITY WAS EXCELLENT.

4. ON MORNING OF JANUARY 6, CODEL MET AT PEOPLES ASSEMBLY WITH
FOREIGN RELATIONS COMMITTEE MEMBERS AND DR. OTEIFI. MEETING,
UNFORTUNATELY ABBREVIATED DUE TO NECESSITY FOR CODEL TO DEPART
FOR TRIP TO BARRAGES GUET HOUSE TO MEET SADAT, INVOLVED FRANK
REVIEW OF US ATTITUDE TOWARD PALESTINIANS. IN RESPONSE
TO EGYPTIAN URGING OF US-PLO DIALGUE, CODEL MEMBERS RAISED
QUESTION, LATER REITERATED TO MAR'I, OF PLO TERRORISM AND
FACT THAT ONLY EGYPT, AMONG ARAB STATES, APPEARED TO CONDEMN
ACTS OF TERRORISM. EGYPTIANS RESPONDED THAT, TO GREAT EXTENT,
TERRORISM HAD BECOME INTERNATIONALIZED AND COULD NO LONGER
BE LINKED EXCLUSIVELY TO PLO. IN ADDITION, EGYPTIANS URGED
CODEL TO DISTINGUISH BETWEEN TERRORIST ACTS COMMITTED INSIDE
ISRAEL AND OCCUPIED TERRITORIES (WHICH MERELY EXPRESSION OF
PALESTINIAN NATIONALISM) AND INCIDENTS SUCH AS HIJACKING AND
KIDNAPPING, WHICH OFTEN CONDEMNED BY PLO ITSELF. EGYPTIANS
ALSO STRESSED THEME (LATER UNDERLINED BY BOTH SADAT AND MAR'I)
THAT, BY BRINGING PLO INTO NEGOTIATING PROCESS, US WOULD
STRENGTHEN MODERATE FACTION AGAINST PLO EXTREMISTS WHO NOW
RIDING HIGH. CODEL MEMBERS HAD OPPORTUNITY DURING EVENING
TO CONTINUE DISCUSSIONS WITH PEOPLES ASSEMBLY MEMBERS AT
RECEPTION AT SHERATON HOTEL HOSTED BY DR. OTEIFI.

5. AFTER FRANK AND WIDE-RANGING MORNING DISCUSSION WITH SPEAKER
MAR'S JANUARY 7 (ATTENDED ALSO BY ASU FIRST SECRETARY MAHGUB AND
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PEOPLES ASSEMBLY MEMBERS DR. GOMAA AND LAYLA TAKLA), CODEL
DEPARTED FOR TEL AVIV.

6. COMMENT: EMBASSY FEELS THAT VISIT WAS EXTREMELY USEFUL IN
PINPOINTING BOTH DEPTH OF EGYPTIAN FRIENDSHIP FOR US AND PERSISTENT
EGYPTIAN FEAR THAT, UNLESS US CAN PROVIDE LEAD IN MAINTAINING
PROGRESS TOWARD PEACE SETTLEMENT AND ISRAELI WITHDRAWAL FROM
OCCUPIED TERRITORIES, RADICAL FORCES IN ARAB WORLD WILL

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HAVE FIELD DAY AT EXPENSE OF SADAT. CODEL MEMBERS WERE
WELL INFORMED, INTERETED, AND ALSO GOOD HUMORED (EVEN IN
FACE OF NOTORIOUS CAIRO TRAFFIC). MEMBERS FULLY UNDERSTOOD
GOE POINT OF VIEW ON NECESSITY OF CONTINUED PROGRESS TOWARD
PEACE AND ASSURED EGYPTIANS THAT CONGRESS WOULD ATTEMPT TO
ASSIST PEACE PROCESS. MEDIA COVERAGE WAS WIDE (REF C) AND
INCLUDED BRIEF CAIRO RADIO INTERVIEW WITH PRESRESENTATIVES
FOUNTAIN AND BROOMFIELD AT END OF VISIT.
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